

A Custom GPT for VU Block Model® Curriculum Design

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While AI large language models are a promising tool in tertiary curriculum design, their application to intensive teaching methods remains largely unexplored (Onal & Kulavuz-Onal, 2024; Lodge et al., 2023). This interactive workshop introduces a custom GPT model specifically tailored for the VU Block Model® curriculum development process.

Developed using a ChatGPT Plus subscription, this AI was trained on VU Block Model® principles, university policies and AQF standards. It was designed to avoid recommending lecture-based classes, instead favouring interactive workshops and authentic learning experiences. The model has also been trained to propose well-scaffolded assessments tailored to the intensive block delivery format.

Participants will explore how this custom AI tool can accelerate curriculum design while offering block-appropriate ideas for teaching, learning activities and assessments. The critical need for human expert oversight and appropriate prompting to achieve appropriate outcomes is underscored. Attendees can provide their own units or courses to test the AI firsthand, better understanding its unique strengths, limitations and potential applications.

The workshop highlights striking the balance between leveraging AI's capabilities and the essential role of educational expertise in overseeing its effective integration and implementation. Interactive demonstrations and facilitated discussions will explore the practical use of generative AI and how iterative interactions with this tool can aid in curriculum design.

References

- Lodge, J. M., Thompson, K., & Corrin, L., (2023). Mapping out a research agenda for generative artificial intelligence in tertiary education. *Australasian Journal of Educational Technology*, 39(1), 1-8.
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- Onal, S., & Kulavuz-Onal, D. (2024). A Cross-Disciplinary Examination of the Instructional Uses of ChatGPT in Higher Education. *Journal of Educational Technology Systems*, 52(3), 301-324.
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